

Application No. 10/776,784

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended.

The abstract was objected to as using the phrase "the invention." The abstract has been amended to delete the objectionable language.

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kletzmaier (U.S. Patent No. 4,563,886). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kletzmaier in view of Cahill (EP 134,317). Claims 7 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kletzmaier in view of Luker (U.S. Patent No. 5,690,373). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kletzmaier in view of Luker and Kelly (U.S. Patent No. 4,613,176). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kletzmaier in view of Kollmeyer (U.S. Patent No. 1,215,286). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kletzmaier in view of Luker and Kollmeyer. Claims 3 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner noted that claim 4 would also be allowable if claim 3 was rewritten because it depends from claim 3.

Although the rejections are traversed, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to more precisely indicate that the engagement surfaces of the catch are provided on a lateral side of the catch in the direction of its latching pivotation. There is no teaching in Kletzmaier of the engagement surfaces of the catch being provided on a lateral side of the catch in the direction of its latching pivotation. No new matter has been added and support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification as filed, including FIGS. 4 and 5.

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Accordingly, it is requested that the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.
Claims 2-14 variously depend from claim 1 and therefore should also allowable.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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